

Westford Finance Committee

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On Thursday, October 9, 2008, Westford's Finance Committee reviewed and voted their recommendations on most Special Town Meeting articles.

The Finance Committee voted unanimously (6-0) to recommend to the October 20, 2008 Special Town Meeting:

STM 10/20/08 Article	Finance Committee Recommendation
Article 1: FY 2009 Budget Appropriations	Recommend, except \$31,200 for Town Hall expenses
Article 2: FY Budget Transfers	Recommend
Article 3: Appropriation of Capital Stabilization Fund	Recommend
Article 4: Reduce Amount Raised by Taxes in FY 2009	Recommend
Article 5: Authorization of Debt for Senior Center (\$6 million)	Dismiss and readdress at Annual Town Meeting 2009
Article 6: Development of Site 7, Country Road Well Replacement	
Article 8: Community Preservation Committee recommendations	Dismiss and readdress at Annual Town Meeting 2009, as appropriate
Article 9: Engineering and Design of Town Hall Renovation and Addition	Dismiss and readdress at Annual Town Meeting 2009

Two large-ticket capital items – the proposed expansion and renovation of the Cameron Senior Center and of the currently vacated Town Hall – received much discussion and consideration. Tom Mahanna, Kirk Ware, and Nancy Cook from the Permanent Town Building Committee (PTBC) answered questions and furthered discussion on both Town Hall and the Senior Center. Westford Town Manager Jodi Ross provided valuable insight and guidance on addressing these projects, especially in the Town's current financial environment. At this time, the Finance Committee believes that both these projects' scopes and costs are too fluid. It is the Committee's recommendation that Westford's Town Meeting should defer voting on

these projects until the 2009 Annual Town Meeting.

Waiting until the Spring 09 Annual Town Meeting will allow the Town to align the scope and costs of the two projects to the most appropriate level. This will also the Senior Center to have a firm bid for Town Meeting voters in the spring.

We look forward to discuss (where necessary) these recommendations and take positions on any other articles at the October 14 Selectmen meeting.

The Finance Committee makes recommendations to Town Meeting voters on articles that have fiscal impacts. We strive to make the most fiscally responsible recommendations possible. These are only recommendations and Town Meeting voters have the last say on these matters.

2008-09 Westford Finance Committee

Ingrid Nilsson (chair)
Mike Princi (vice-chair)
Rose O'Donnell (clerk)
Ali Corvino
Jean Drula
Al Herget
Mark Kost
Tom Price